

**Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Public Session
August 12, 2009**

Conservation Commission Members Present: Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Gordon Barker, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Donna Jensen

Colin Lawson, graduate student from Antioch University, explained he is working on a study of how culverts are being impacted along the Winnicut River by building. He is also looking at applying for a DES 2010 Impaired Waters Restoration Grant and discussed his hopes of bringing together Stratham, North Hampton and Greenland to support the project. He presented items that the grant could potentially address. He has not defined the category yet that he is looking at specifically addressing, but wanted to present the information to the CC so we would know what he is considering and offer the opportunity for input at the early stages. He discussed Stratham possibly voting in prime wetlands designation. Paul explained that Stratham has intentionally elected not to designate prime wetlands since the town does not want to abdicate responsibility of care/control to the state. The CC was in favor of his project and Pat will write a letter for the DES application if he requests one.

The CC was updated on the McDonnell property grant activity. The grant was approved but not funded because it did not rank within the top 3. The CC has a choice to withdraw the grant, leave it submitted as is or provide additional information. The CC would like to reserve the right to provide additional information. Paul suggested that an appraisal be conducted on the property asap since the grant could be moved through at anytime and the more info we have, the better. Roger Stephenson of the Ad Hoc committee was in attendance and will work with his committee to pursue this.

Discussed the CC website and need for improvements. Pat offered to contact Lesley at the library to help move this forward. Paul explained that the town just contracted with an outside firm to develop a town website that will not go through the library site and she will be contacting us within the next couple of weeks to arrange a discussion of content.

Dan moved, Bob seconded, paying Southeast Land trust \$500 reimbursement for the \$ spent on Doucette Engineering for the build out plan on the McDonnell property. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat attended a program on July 15, 2009 conducted by Cheri Patterson, a marine biologist for the NH Fish and Game Dept, to discuss Dam Removals in the Great Bay Watershed. The article in the newspaper about the program alluded to the possible removal of the Mill Pond dam. Pat asked if this was in the works and the presenter indicated that no such removal was slated. The pond is privately owned. Any such removal would require a DES wetlands permit and the CC would be appropriately notified and have a chance to comment.

Dan approved, Bob seconded approval for the July 8, 2009 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat explained that at the fair someone approached her about doing some repairs to the screens in the 4H building. Paul suggested contacting both Kim at Stratham Hill Park and Mike Keane of the fair committee to discuss further. Pat will follow-up.

Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, August 26th at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Elwell

Chair